

O'Marie Barnes - Letter of Support for HB1539.pdf

Uploaded by: O'Marie Barnes

Position: FAV

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Good Afternoon Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is O'Marie Barnes, and I am honored to write to you, urging a favorable report on HB1539, a bill that would allow greater access to State IDs for disadvantaged youth.

I am seventeen years old, and I can confidently express that this bill would mean so much to so many young Marylanders experiencing nontraditional households, strenuous familial relationships, and situations outside of their control. For me, the feeling of being turned away from the Motor Vehicle Administration, regardless of possessing my birth certificate and proof of residency, was heartbreaking. I couldn't understand why my situation was not accounted for, or why my Great-Grandmother, who has been a caregiver for me since months after my birth, could not help.

With a State ID, I will finally be able to get a Driver's license, drive myself to work or school, and take an international trip. No longer will I be forced to watch as other high-schoolers pass through driving school, buy their first vehicles, and live out their lives with a new sense of Independence—one that's unavailable to me.

No young-adult should be put in the uncomfortable position of having to answer the question, "when are you getting your license?", while stammering to figure out an appropriate response. No young-adult should be confronted with the catch-22 of either legal emancipation and lost health insurance, or sitting in wait for years.

This bill is an opportunity to make so many young people's lives better, to lift their hopes, and to provide upward mobility for the thousands of people under the age of eighteen who, like me, just want to be given a chance. This is why I write to urge a favorable report for HB1539, because we can all agree that when we break down barriers for our young people, we not only support Maryland, but we show our youth that they matter.

Thank you for your time and effort. I urge you to support HB1539.

Sincerely,

O'Marie Barnes

Written Testimony for HB 1539_ Transportation - I

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

Written Testimony for **HB 1539**: Transportation - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors - Please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Dear Environment & Transportation Committee:

Please **VOTE NO** on **HB 1539**.

HB 1539 reads "...THE ADMINISTRATION **MAY NOT REQUIRE** A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MINOR 15 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO COSIGN OR BE PRESENT AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THE MINOR'S APPLICATION FOR AN IDENTIFICATION CARD..."

HB 1539 violates parental rights. **HB 1539 violates** a parent's **constitutional rights** to be in charge of their children's upbringing until the child's age of majority at 18 years of age.

There is no reason that a minor child needs to obtain an ID card **without** a parent's consent. A minor child is unable to participate in many things until that minor child reaches 18 years of age. The following is a partial list of those things: 1. Drive, 2. Vote, 3. Register in the Selective Service, 4. Sign a legal contract, 5. Change their legal birth name, 6. Become eligible for jury duty, 7. File a lawsuit, 8. Sign a will, 9. Open a bank account, 10. Apply for a credit card, 11. Buy real estate, 12. Apply for a mortgage or other loan, 13. Rent an apartment, 14. File for bankruptcy, 15. Work at a bar and serve alcoholic drinks, 16. Get a passport, 17. Purchase a lottery ticket, 18. Buy a pet, 19. Skydive, 20. Buy fireworks, 21. Buy a car, 22. Get married.

Obviously, this isn't an exhaustive list, but you get the idea.

Signing the form(s) for obtaining an ID card is no different than signing any other contract, so parental consent needs to be obtained.

Therefore, please **VOTE NO IN OPPOSITION to HB 1539**. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

HB1539 - MVA - LOI - Transportation - Identificati

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1539 – Transportation - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1539 and offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

HB 1539 would require the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to allow minors aged 15 years or older to obtain a Maryland Identification (ID) Card without a parent or legal guardian being present.

Customers who are seeking to obtain a Maryland ID Card must provide Proof of Address to comply with federal REAL ID requirements. For minors, the most common means to satisfy residency requirements is by having the parent or legal guardian certify that the minor lives at the parent or legal guardian's residence and share their own ID card or driver's license. Typically, minors otherwise lack alternative forms of proof acceptable under United States Department of Homeland Security regulations.

The MVA is committed to reducing barriers for residents to obtain ID cards and driver's licenses. Last year, the MVA eliminated ID card fees for certain vulnerable populations including youth under the care of the Department of Juvenile Services, youth between 15 and 20 years of age who are participants in Department of Human Services programs, and unhoused youth. The MVA will continue to work with the bill sponsor to ensure a satisfactory resolution for all parties.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1539.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
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Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
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